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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,869	03/18/2004	Hiraku Murayama	018961-067	5448
21839	7590	10/05/2006	EXAMINER	
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			ROY, ANURADHA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3736	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N1

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/802,869	MURAYAMA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Anuradha Roy	3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to applicant's amendment submitted on July 14, 2006.

Examiner acknowledges the amended claims in response to the first office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchino et al. (US Patent No. 6,001,068) in view of Ishida et al. (US Patent No. 6,328,822).

Regarding claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 13, & 14, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1) comprising a distal end side portion (111) formed of a first metallic material (Column 3, line 54 – Column 4, line 6), a proximal end side portion (131) formed of a second metallic material (Column 4, lines 7-26) higher in rigidity than said first metallic material, and an intermediate portion (proximal end of A, 12, & distal end of B) provided between said distal end side portion and said proximal end side portion and containing said first metallic material (A) and said second metallic material (B), said intermediate portion comprises a gradient physical property portion in which the content of said first metallic material decreases from the distal end side toward the proximal end side, and

in which the content of said second metallic material increases from the distal end side toward the proximal end side (Column 4, line 27 – Column 5, line 17), a distal end portion of said intermediate portion is formed only of said first metallic material (proximal end of A), and a proximal end portion of said intermediate portion is formed only of said second metallic material (distal end of B), and said distal end portion of said intermediate portion is joined to said distal end side portion by welding and said proximal end portion of said intermediate portion is joined to said proximal end side portion by one of welding, soldering or brazing (Column 7, lines 19 – 30). However, Uchino et al. does not teach of the intermediate portion formed of a metallic mixture of the first and second metallic materials. Ishida et al., however, teaches of a metallic mixture of the first and second materials (Column 1, lines 12-19). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention in view of Ishida et al. to have an intermediate portion having a metallic mixture of the first and second material with Uchino et al. in order to have a core wire comprising a soft tip end portion and a properly elastic and rigid body portion and a properly elastic and rigid body portion and further have good insertion operability, torque conveyance, and workability (Column 2, lines 22-26).

Regarding claim 2, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1), wherein the content of said second metallic material in said gradient physical property portion increases stepwise (proximal end of A, 12, & distal end of B) from the distal end side toward the proximal end side. Examiner asserts since there are distinct regions of material, there is an inherent stepwise increase of second metallic material.

With regard to claim 3, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1), wherein the content of said second metallic material in said gradient physical property portion increases continuously (proximal end of A, 12, & distal end of B) from the distal end side toward the proximal end side. Examiner asserts since there is an increase in the second metallic material within the intermediate section and since the intermediate section is integral, there is an inherent continuous increase of the second metallic material.

In regard to claim 4, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1), wherein said first metallic material is a Ni--Ti based alloy (Column 3, line 54 – Column 4, line 6).

In regard to claim 5, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1), wherein said second metallic material is a stainless steel (Column 4, lines 22 - 26).

Regarding claim 6, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1), which comprises a coil portion (112) so provided as to cover a distal end portion thereof (Figure 1).

With regard to claim 7, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1), wherein said coil is formed of a contrast material (Column 6, lines 15 - 19).

In regard to claim 8, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire (Figure 1), wherein at least a portion of an outer surface of said guide wire is coated with a resin (Column 5, lines 63 – 66).

And finally, in regard to claim 11, Uchino et al. discloses a guide wire, which is an integral body free of any joint portion (Figure 1). It has been held that the term "integral"

is sufficiently broad to embrace constructions united by such means as fastening and welding. *In re Hotte*, 177 USPQ 326, 328 (CCPA 1973).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

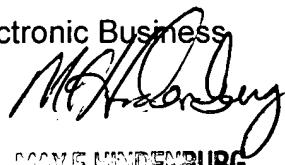
MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anuradha Roy whose telephone number is 571-272-6169 and whose email address is anuradha.roy@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached between 9:00am and 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on 571-272-4726.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

~AR



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